

Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

December 23, 1978

Because of their interest in my work, my wife and I have come to know many college-age people. Among these people, as we look back over many years, we recall none who is a finer human being than Lila Annaloro. That she is intelligent and industrious, which she is, may be less an indication of the kind of lawyer she can become than her warmth, compassion and helpfulness to others, and what is even less common, the highest ethical and moral concepts which she holds and lives by.

We know of her sincere interest in justice and how, as an undergraduate, she has sought to understand it better and to acquire personal knowledge of the system and how it works. She sought and found an internship that would give her personal experience with the actual workings of justice and, having obtained it, worked hard and well at it.

I have had a personal experience with her that I believe reflects an excellent perception and understanding of evidentiary values and importances.

In my writing, which assesses the functioning of our basic institutions, I have made extensive use of the Freedom of Information Act. One of my cases led to the 1974 amending of the investigatory-files exemption to the Act. Two of the subjects of these FOIA cases have been held to be historical by the Attorney General. Nonetheless, the executive agencies, particularly the FBI, are unwilling to comply. As a result, there was extensive correspondence in an effort to obtain compliance. In this case, C.A. 75-1996 in federal district court in Washington, hundreds of thousands of pages of records are involved.

There came a time when the Civil Division of the Department of Justice asked me to provide it with a memorandum abstracting this extensive correspondence. I was then ill with serious circulatory problems. My lawyer was unable to undertake this added burden. I asked Ms. Annaloro to do this. She distilled from letters as voluminous as the manuscript of a book a 13-page memorandum of specifics and illustration of her own, unguided selection. My lawyer handed the Department her unedited work. The judge ordered the FBI to respond. Response

required a 68-page affidavit to which 52 exhibits were attached. It was prepared by a senior, experienced FBI agent who was in a supervisory role. The response, despite its length and detail, was so inadequate that the judge directed the Department to undertake an extensive review and reappraisal of the entire matter. As a result, extensive reprocessing of records in this historic case has been under way in the Department of Justice for several months. Much more information will be disclosed and in time will be deposited in a public, university archive. Some is currently under Congressional consideration.

I believe that Ms. Annaloro's excellent performance in this task, an unusual and heavy responsibility for an undergraduate, one involving skills she had not been taught and judgment for which neither her education or prior experience had prepared her, provides a dependable forecast of the kind of lawyer she can be.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

This letter mailed 12/29/78 to:

Suffolk U Law School, Boston, MA

Wm New England College, School of Law, Springfield, MA

Boston College Law School, Newton Centre, MA

New England School of Law, Boston, MA

U. of PA Law School, Phila., Pa.

Boston U. School of Law, Boston, MA

Ill. Inst. of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chi., Ill.

Northeastern U. School of Law, Boston, MA